

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, and 16 have been amended. Claims 6 and 17 have been deleted. The Amendment is fully supported by the original disclosure. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims 1-5 and 7-16 in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner has allowed claims 11-15, and has indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 7 to be independent format. Claim 7 is now in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claim.

Likewise, claims 8-10 are allowable due at least to their dependence on claim 7.

The Objection To The Drawings Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a):

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to show "forward section and a rear section detachably connected together" as discussed in Applicant's claim 6 (now incorporated into independent claim 1).

In response, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the specification at page 5, line 21 - page 10, line 2. In this portion of the specification, the Applicant discloses the coupling 122 which "connects and supports pairs of scale platforms 12, 14 placed end-to-end." This description provides support for the objected to limitation. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that no amendments to the drawings or specification are necessary at this time.

The Rejection Of Claims 1-6, 8-10, 16, And 17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-10, 16, and 17 as being anticipated by Dickason (U.S. Patent No. 4,281,728).

Claims 6 and 17 have been cancelled, so need not be considered further here. Additionally, claims 8-10 depend from allowable amended claim 7, so also need not be discussed further here.

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's conclusion and traverses the rejection for the following reasons. For a prior art reference to anticipate under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every element of the claimed invention must be identically shown in the reference. Applicant respectfully submits that Dickason does not disclose the limitation in amended independent claim 1 requiring that the scale platform comprise "a forward section and a rear section detachably connected together and supported by a coupling". As shown in Applicant's Fig. 5, a coupling 122 allows more than one scale platform to be placed end-to-end, and to be supported by the coupling 122. No such modular arrangement can be found in the prior art. Additionally, no such support structure can be found in the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Dickason.

Likewise, claims 2-5 are not anticipated by Dickason due at least to their dependence on independent claim 1.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that Dickason does not disclose the limitation in amended independent claim 16 requiring that "each of the right and left scale platforms include a pair of separately formed independent elongated inboard and outboard platform sections". Thus, claim 16 requires for separately formed and independent elongated platform sections. Fig. 1 of Dickason teaches away from such a limitation by showing a single elongated platform, which supports half of the wheels to be weighed; thus, Dickason teaches only using two elongated platforms, and not the four platform sections required by amended independent claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent amended claim 16 is not anticipated by Dickason.

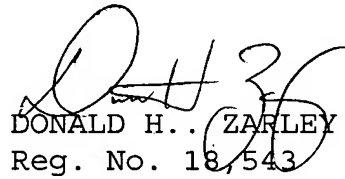
Conclusion:

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that claims 1-5 and 7-16 are in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claims. If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 515-558-0200.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-2098.

Respectfully submitted,



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